



# Journal of Religion & Film

---

Volume 22  
Issue 1 April 2018

Article 27

---

1-24-2018

## Sunnyside

William L. Blizek  
*University of Nebraska at Omaha*, [wblizek@unomaha.edu](mailto:wblizek@unomaha.edu)

---

### Recommended Citation

Blizek, William L. (2018) "Sunnyside," *Journal of Religion & Film*: Vol. 22 : Iss. 1 , Article 27.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/jrf/vol22/iss1/27>

This Slamdance Film Festival Review is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UNO. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of Religion & Film by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@UNO. For more information, please contact [unodigitalcommons@unomaha.edu](mailto:unodigitalcommons@unomaha.edu).

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**  
Omaha

---

# Sunnyside

**Abstract**

This is a film review of *Sunnyside* (2018), directed by Frederik Carbon.

**Keywords**

Old Age, Death

**Author Notes**

William Blizek is the Founding Editor of the Journal of Religion and Film, and is Professor of Philosophy and Religion at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is also the editor of the Continuum Companion to Religion and Film (2009).



**Sunnyside (2018), dir. Frederik Carbon**

Sunnyside is the story of two old men, architect Dan Lieberman and Sandy Jacobs, who have taken up residence on the side of a mountain with almost none of the usual amenities. This is the story of how they live and why. They are two quite different people, but they are both growing old and as they grow old they consider the nature of their lives. One might call them the mountain philosophers.

They are clearly taking stock of their lives. They talk, not always with each other, about what they are proud of and what they wish had been different. They talk about what they are doing now and what they will do until they die (and death is not far away). The beauty of the movie is that we get to listen in on these conversations. And if we listen carefully, we might learn something about what is really important in life and what we only think is important. We might learn something about what a life well lived would look like. We might find out how to move forward after we've hurt others. We might find out how to face death. This does not mean that we have to accept the answers of Dan and Sandy, but rather that we might find our own answers to these questions. We are invited to do so by this film.